

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01649 161019Z
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1649

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: ATTITUDES OF SHIA MOSLEMS TOWARDS HADDAD AND IDF

1. WE HAVE SEEN CONFLICTING PRESS REPORTS RECENTLY REGARDING
ATTITUDE OF SHIITES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TOWARDS HADDAD AND IDF.
ALTHOUGH THIS SUBJECT OUT OF OUR NORMAL BAILWICK, WE HAVE JUST
READ A UNIFIL INTERNAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY GIVING A
UNIFIL JUDGEMENT OF SHIITE PREFERENCE. WE PASS IT ALONG FOR
INFO OF ADDRESSEES.

2. ACCORDING TO UNIFIL REPORT WHICH IS BASED ON QUESTIONING
OF SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH SHIA MOSLEMS, THE SHIITES HAVE
COLLABORATED WITH HADDAD AND IDF BECAUSE OF THREATS OF
(A) DESTRUCTION OF THEIR VILLAGES AND (B) EXPULSION FROM AREA
OF THOSE WHO DO NOT AGREE TO RENROLL IN MILITIA. EXCEPT FOR
YARUN, WHICH AGREED TO BUILD A LOCAL MILITIA,
NO OTHER SHIITE VILLAGE WOULD ACCEPT IDF WEAPONS WITHOUT
GOL AGREEMENT ACCORDING TO UNIFIL REPORT.
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3. UNIFIL SUMMARY CONCLUDES THAT SHIITE COOPERATION WITH
HADDAD IS "ARTIFICIAL" AND THAT SHIITES ARE NOT PLO-ORIENTED
BUT WANT TO BE LEBANESE AND NOT DEPENDENT ON ISRAEL.
IN INTERIM, THEY WOULD PREFER UNIFIL PRESENCE RATHER THAN
HADDAD.

4. ON ANOTHER POINT, UNIFIL REPORT SAYS THAT REFUGEES FROM SHIITE VILLAGES "WILL NEVER DARE TO COME BACK" AS LONG AS HADDAD IS THERE.

5. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND FROM UN SOURCE THAT THESE UNIFIL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARIES ARE RESTRICTED TO INTERNAL USE AND NOT SENT TO NEW YORK. OUR SOURCE (AMERICAN SAID THAT THEY ARE BASICALLY PREPARED BY FRENCH OFFICERS IN UNIFIL, AND HE RATED REPORTS AS FAIRLY RELIABLE.
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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